Extradition of Afghan/Bangladeshi Nationals

*118. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Afghan and Bangladeshi nationals have been found involved in criminal activities;

(b) if so, what steps have been initiated to overcome the refugee/illegal migrants menace; and

(c) the details of extradition, if any, of the aforesaid nationals effected during 1998?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) According to available information some Bangladeshi nationals are reported to be involved in criminal activities.

(b) Several measures have been taken to curb and prevent infiltration. These include, inter alia, raising of additional battalions of the Border Security Force, reducing gaps between the border outposts, increase in the number of outposts towers, intensification of patrolling along the border, both land and riverine; surveillance on the coastal areas; accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing.

(c) No Afghan or Bangladeshi national was extradited during 1998 as there is no Extradition Treaty with these countries.

Reconsideration of closure of ECL mines

*119. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are reconsidering their earlier decision to close down 68 coal mines under the Eastern Coalfields India Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No decision has been taken at the level of the Government to close down 68 mines in Eastern Coalfields Limited.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply at (a) above.

Tax collection by BLTF

*120. SHRI O.P. KOHLI:
SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Indian Express dated 29th January, 1999, to the effect that in an attempt to build a strong financial base, the outlawed Bodo Liberation Tiger Force propose to collect tax from all categories of people in Nalbari district of lower Assam and are carrying out massive extortion racket there; and

(b) if so, the preventive steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government of Assam has been requested to sensitise all agencies and take all preventive steps to curb such criminal activities.

Import of coal

776. DR. B.B. DUTTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imported coal during last five years;

(b) if so, the quantity and value thereof;

(c) what has been the necessity for the import; and